(a) whether Government is aware that electronic devices such as computers servers, mainframes monitors, TV and telecommunication devices are dumped by most users once they go out of fashion;

(b) if so, the policies that have been framed by Government to manage e-waste in the country;

(c) whether Government would make generator of e-waste liable and also put some liability on electronic industry to manage this kind of waste; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) E-waste contains hazardous waste and these Rules already provide for regulation of generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal of such hazardous wastes through the process of authorization from the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in the UTs. The Ministry has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2008, repealing the earliar rules and a provision has been made for the first time in the new Rules for registration of recycler/reprocessor of the Components of waste electrical and electronic assemblies with the Central Pollution Control Board for ensuring environmentally sound management of such e-waste.

A task force had also been constituted by the Ministry to finalize the guidelines for environmentally sound management of e-waste. The task force has since submitted its report and the guidelines are now available on the website of the Ministry (www.envfor.nic.in) as well as on the CPCB's website (www.cpcb.nic.in). the guidelines provide guidance for identification of various sources of waste electrical and electronic equipment, It is intended to encourage the recycling of e-waste for the present, instead of making the generator liable to manage e-waste.

Air pollution

1117. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether world class air pollution measuring mechanism capable of monitoring even the tiniest harmful particle in the air, are being installed in Delhi; and

(b) if so, in what manner the basic pollution level already known is going to be effectively controlled as smallest toxic particle (*i.e.* one-seventh of the size of human hair) are breaching the deepest parts of the lungs and are more harmful than any other known particulate matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ambient air quality in Delhi is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) alongwith the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). The CPCB has started monitoring finer dust particles, less than 2.5 micron size ($PM_{2.5}$), at 07 locations in Delhi.

Introduction of cleaner fuel and improvement in engine technology as per the Road Map provided in the auto fuel policy apart from strengthening the public transport system including Metro Rail network will help in abatement and control of finer dust particles in ambient air in Delhi.

Forest cover

1118. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest cover is decreasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of the forest cover as compared to five years back; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to maintain the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Forest Survey of India carries out forest cover assessment of the country using remote sensing technology once every two years and publishes the findings in "State of Forest Report'. The forest cover of the country as per 2001, 2003 and 2005 assessments is given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest cover (in km^2)	653,898	677,816	677,088

It can be seen that the forest cover of the country has increased by 23,918 km^2 between 2001 and 2003 assessments, and decreased marginally by 728 km^2 between 2003 and 2005 assessments. The main reasons for this marginal decrease of 728 km^2 were the Tsunami and submergence of forest area due to construction of dams.

(c) The government of India has taken following steps to maintain and increase the forest cover:-

(i) Allocation of the flagship "National Afforestation Plan" (NAP) scheme during the 11th Plan has been raised to Rs. 2000 crore. Till 31.03.2008, 782 Forest development agency projects for treatment of total project area of 1.41 million hectares have been approved by the Ministry, under this scheme.

(ii) In addition to the programmes of Ministry of Environment and Forests, tree planting is being encouraged in the schemes/programmes of other Ministries, for example:

- National Bamboo Mission (Ministry of Agriculture).
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development).
- Integrated Water-shed Management Programme.